

Application Number: 10/767,573
Response to Office Action of October 18, 2005

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1-14. (canceled)

15. (presently amended) A method for detecting the presence of plaque on a user's teeth comprising incorporating in a carrier a dye, at a concentration of 0.075-0.30% by volume of the total combination of carrier and dye, which has the characteristic of attaching to plaque and which has the characteristic of being fluorescent in the presence of UV light, applying the carrier to the user's teeth, attaching the dye to any plaque on the user's teeth, radiating UV light from a UV light source toward the user's teeth, and creating a visual fluorescent effect where plaque is present on the user's teeth, wherein the light source is an LED which emits UVA radiation at a wavelength of 350-410 nm.

16. (original) The method of claim 15 including removing excess dye and carrier from the user's teeth before radiating the UV light toward the user's teeth.

17. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the excess dye and carrier are removed by a rinse and spitting action.

18. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of toothpaste, oral rinse, oral mouthwash, gum, lozenge and a polymer strip.

19. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the carrier is in liquid form and is gargled for applying the carrier to the user's teeth.

20. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the UV light source is in a toothbrush.

21. (original) The method of claim 20 wherein the carrier is toothpaste applied to the toothbrush.

22. (original) The method of claim 20 wherein the UV light source is selectively activated by a switch.

23. (original) The method of claim 20 wherein the toothbrush is a manual toothbrush.

24. (original) The method of claim 20 wherein the toothbrush is a powered toothbrush.

Application Number: 10/767,573
Response to Office Action of October 18, 2005

25. (new) The method of claim 20 wherein the light source emits UVA radiation at a wavelength of 378-373 nm.